

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/619,924

Examiner

S. Tran

Applicant(s)

VENKATESH ET AL.

Art Unit

1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Request for Reconsideration filed 06/22/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-9,11-13,15,17-21,24-26,28,29 and 31-35.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 07/07/09
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Leigh M. Warren on 07/07/09.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, last line, after the phrase "the total potassium chloride is released", the phrase ", wherein said plasticized polymer comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of ethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, wherein said colloidal silicon dioxide is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 0.3% by weight of said tablet, wherein said outer membrane coating comprises from about 0.5% to about 5.0% by weight of said compressible coated microcapsules, and wherein said compressible blend is substantially free of lubricants" has been inserted.

Claim 20, last line, after the phrase "the total potassium chloride is released", the phrase ", wherein said plasticized polymer comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of ethylcellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, and hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, wherein said colloidal silicon dioxide is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 0.3% by weight of said tablet, wherein said outer membrane coating comprises from about 0.5% to about 5.0% by weight of said compressible coated microcapsules,

and wherein said compressible blend is substantially free of lubricants" has been inserted.

Claim 5, line 1, the phrase "claim 4" has been amended to "claim 1".

Claim 17 has been amended to read as follow:

-- "The process of claim 1 wherein said plasticized polymer comprises ethylcellulose and diethyl phthalate, and wherein said compressible blend comprises about 0.1% to 0.2% by weight colloidal silicon dioxide and not more than about 15% by weight of said microcrystalline cellulose."--

Claim 33, line 2, the phrase ", wherein said tablet is substantially free of lubricants" has been deleted.

Claims 4, 10, 14, 16, 22, 23, 27 and 30 have been cancelled.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art, Gantt et al., does not teach the claimed compressible blend of microencapsulated potassium chloride that is free of lubricants and comprising 0.1-0.3% colloidal silicon dioxide to obtain a tablet with a friability that does not exceed about 0.3%. The present specification shows unexpected result of about 20-fold improvement in hardness and far superior friability values.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-13, 15, 17-21, 24-26, 28, 29 and 31-35 are allowed.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to S. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-0606. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on (571) 272-8373. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/S. Tran/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1615